

Serial No.: 10/706,676

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

NOV 21 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 10 are amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added by the amendments, which find support throughout the specification and figures. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments do not raise new issues, reduces issues on appeal, and/or places the claims in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,421,723 to Tawil (hereinafter referred to as Tawil). The Office Action summary indicates that claims 19 and 20 are rejected, and these claims are discussed in regard to Tawil, however these claims are not specifically rejected on a particular basis. Clarification of the status of these claims is requested in the next Office communication.

To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the cited reference must teach each and every feature of the rejected claims. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Amended claim 1 relates to a storage system that includes, inter alia, one or more data storage logical units (LUs) comprising physical media, the one or more LUs being adapted to receive commands. Responsive to the commands, the LUs store and recall data. The storage system of amended claim 1 also includes *a plurality of ports, each port being adapted to maintain an LU command queue for each of the LUs*, such that upon receiving a command directed to one of the LUs, the port places the received command in the respective LU command queue, converts the received command to one or more converted commands at least some of which are directed to the physical media of the one of the LUs, and conveys the at least some

Serial No.: 10/706,676

converted commands to the physical media in an order determined by the respective LU command queue.

The Examiner asserts that Tawil discloses the feature of a plurality of ports, each port being adapted to maintain a respective LU command queue for each of the LUs at figure 1 and elements 22 and 26 of Tawil (Office Action; page 2, bottom, to page 3, top). However, as is apparent from figure 1, each of elements 18 and 20 are completely distinct. There is no communication between these elements, except perhaps via storage area network 12. Therefore, elements 18 and 20 of Tawil do not disclose or suggest a plurality of ports, *each port being adapted to maintain an LU command queue for each of the LUs*. Rather, Tawil can at most provide a suggestion of command queues that each maintain and service a *respective* data storage element. In Tawil, the LUs serviced by one command queue are NOT serviced by the other command queue, and vice versa. In stark contrast, the present invention provides a system in which each port maintains a respective LU command queue for each LU. The section of Tawil also cited by the Examiner states in its entirety:

Each of targets 18 and 20 include a command queue 22 and 26 and a data storage area 24 and 28. *Command queues 22 and 26 accept commands* known as FCP CMND from initiators associated with storage area network 12, and *execute* the commands for *storing, recalling* or otherwise manipulating *data in data storage areas 24 and 28*.

(Tawil; col. 4, lines 20-25; emphasis added). In Tawil, as is apparent from figure 1, command queue 22 apparently executes, stores, and recalls data in data storage area 24, while command queue 26 apparently executes, stores, and recalls data in data storage area 28. Command queue 22 of Tawil does not appear to communicate directly with data storage 28, and command queue 26 does not appear to communicate with data storage 24. Therefore, each of these command queues does not maintain a command queue for each of these data storage units, and therefore

Serial No.: 10/706,676

Tawil does not identically disclose or suggest a storage system having *a plurality of ports*, in which each port is adapted to maintain *an LU command queue for each of the LUs*. Since Tawil does not identically disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-9, 19, and 20 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 10 includes features similar to those discussed above in regard to claim 1, and therefore for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable, claim 10 is also allowable.

Claims 11-18 depend from claim 10 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10 is allowable.

Regarding all of the rejections, Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that it is the duty of the Examiner to specifically point out each and every limitation of a claim being rejected as per §1.104(c)(2) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations and section 707 of the M.P.E.P., which explicitly states that *"the particular part relied on must be designated"* (emphasis added) and "the pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified".

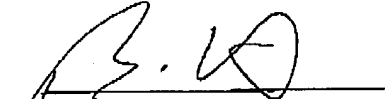
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Serial No.: 10/706,676

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


Brian E. Hennessey
Reg. No. 51,271

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Telephone: (212) 940-6311

Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987

Docket No.: 056730-00070 (ASSIA 20.741)

BEH:pm